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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

19 February 1980

MEMORANDUM

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CUBA-NICARAGUA: Support for Central American Revolutionaries

During the past month, Cuba has stepped up training and advice to Central American insurgents and continues to foster the creation and strengthening of support mechanisms in Honduras and Costa Rica for Salvadoran revolutionaries. Direct Nicaraguan involvement with Central American leftists has been limited, although some arms and volunteers may still be flowing to El Salvador.

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El Salvador

Cuban President Fidel Castro

forecast the overthrow of the Salvadoran Government during 1980 or 1981. Cuba will host a conference of the Communist parties of Central America, Mexico, and Panama between 15 February and 15 March. The conference will focus on support of the Salvadoran extreme left as well as revolutionary prospects throughout Central America.

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This memorandum was requested by the National Security Adviser to the President. It responds to specific questions and is not intended to be an analysis of the overall relationship between Cuba/Nicaragua and Central America. It was prepared by the Latin American Division of the Office of Political Analysis under the direction of the National Intelligence Officer for Latin America, and coordinated with the Clandestine Service. Information in this memorandum reflects information available through 15 February 1980.

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Cuban assistance to Salvadoran insurgents continues to be channeled largely through the Honduran Communist Party (PCH). [redacted] the PCH special apparatus agreed early last month to furnish Cuban-trained military instructors to the Popular Liberation Forces (FPL) of El Salvador in March. [redacted] an FPL request in late January to accelerate the arrival of the instructors could not be honored because many of them were still in Cuba undergoing additional training [redacted]

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Havana also appears to be developing support mechanisms in Costa Rica. [redacted] a Cuban official recently arrived in San Jose to discuss cooperation between the Salvadoran and Costa Rican Communist parties. [redacted]

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Although Nicaraguan Foreign Minister d'Escoto has recently admitted that some weapons have flowed from Nicaragua to El Salvador without official approval, Sandinista spokesmen continue to deny assisting the Salvadoran insurgents.

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